

PROJECT FACTS

SEPTEMBER 2017

The proposed Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Intercity Passenger Rail Service Project would provide an additional, daily round-trip service to between Union Depot in St. Paul and Chicago Union Station.

The Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois departments of transportation, in cooperation with the Federal Railroad Administration, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission, and La Crosse Area Planning Committee are evaluating intercity passenger rail service within the proposed TCMC corridor to better serve the cities and communities along the corridor.

The proposed TCMC Project is in Phase 1 of two phases of study. Phase 1 activities include the following:

- Develop the purpose and transportation needs addressed by the project;
- Evaluate route and service alternatives;
- Model proposed service alternatives; and
- Identify potential capital improvements and cost estimates.

PROPOSED TCMC ROUTE and STATIONS



Proposed Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Intercity Passenger Rail Service route. The project would add an additional, daily round-trip passenger train between the Twin Cities and Chicago.

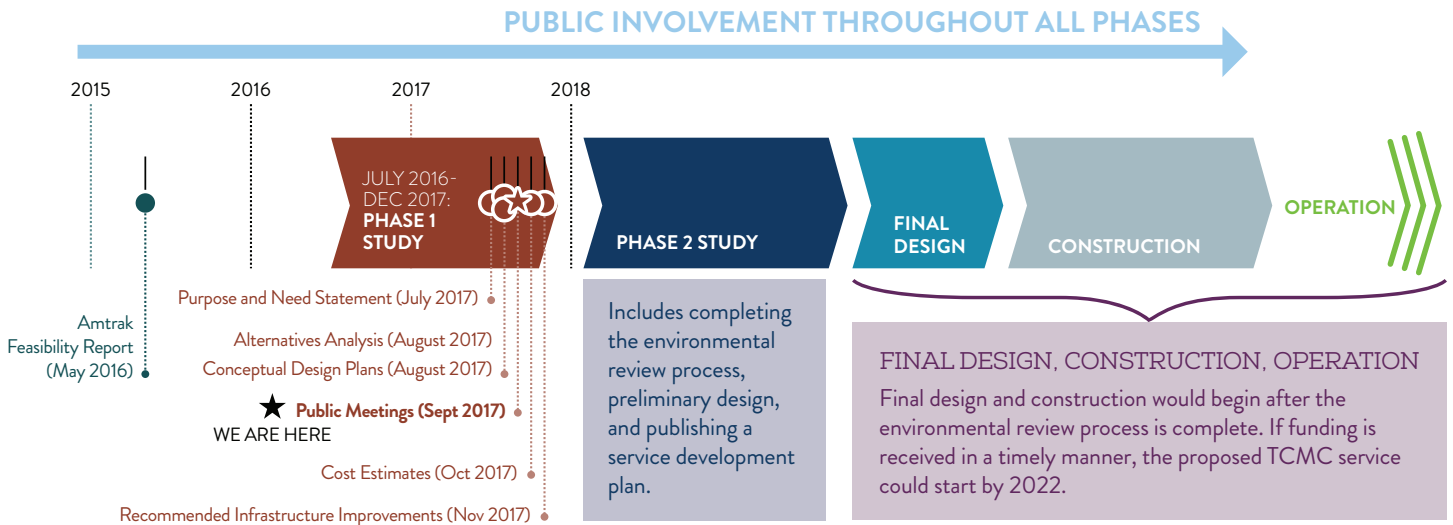
The proposed TCMC corridor currently is served by Amtrak's long-distance *Empire Builder* service that operates between Chicago and Seattle, Washington, and

Portland, Oregon, which provides one trip per day in each direction. Amtrak's *Hiawatha* Service also operates on this corridor between Milwaukee and Chicago.

TCMC PROJECT FEATURES

Service frequency	1 round trip per day, in addition to existing long-distance <i>Empire Builder</i> service
Anticipated schedule	About 4-6 hours difference from the departure/arrival times of the <i>Empire Builder</i> service
Speed	79 mph (maximum)
Travel time	Faster than <i>Empire Builder</i> service – about 7.5 hours between St. Paul and Chicago
Stations	13 total – including stations in Wisconsin served by the <i>Hiawatha</i> service
Ridership	About 155,000 riders annually

TCMC TIMELINE



RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

The recommended alternative is for the TCMC service to operate as an extension of one of the existing seven *Hiawatha* service schedules. This alternative best meets the purpose and need for the project.

PROJECT PURPOSE and NEED

The proposed TCMC service would ...

- Address gaps in the regional transportation system by operating a second, daily round trip;
- Be cost-effective to implement, operate and maintain;
- Address projected population increases and economic growth by providing a second daily service about four to six hours apart from the *Empire Builder* schedule; and
- Integrate with *Hiawatha* service between Milwaukee and Chicago.

The need for the project is based on the following transportation gaps:

- Communities along the corridor have limited transportation options for trips to major metropolitan areas, and the *Empire*

Builder service does not provide sufficient connections to nearby destinations or airports in Milwaukee and the Twin Cities;

- Projected population increases along the proposed TCMC corridor are expected to spur more travel delays on roads and strain airline services;
- The one daily round-trip passenger rail service between the Twin Cities and Chicago does not provide schedule choices for intercity and other travelers within the region; and
- The *Empire Builder* service reaches near-capacity or capacity during peak travel months, and travel demand within the proposed corridor is projected to rise.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Praveena Pidaparthi, MnDOT
 praveena.pidaparthi@state.mn.us
 (651) 366-3199

Arun Rao, WisDOT
 arun.rao@dot.wi.gov
 (608) 266-3015

Elliot Ramos, IDOT
 elliot.ramos@illinois.gov
 (312) 793-0478



PROJECT WEBSITE

www.dot.state.mn.us/passengerrail/tc-mil-chi/